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STON, March 18 (AFP). — President Ford and visiting Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey today jointly opposed violence in Ireland and called on Americans to cut off financial or other aid to the Ireland militants.  
Haughey also said President Ford had an invitation to visit Ireland.

# JORDAN TIMES

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردن تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالعمارة من المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

## Morocco takes 2/3 of Sahara

KUWAIT, March 18 (AFP). — Morocco will take two thirds of the Western Sahara territory under terms of the still-secret partitioning agreement reached with Mauritania and Spain.

The Kuwaiti newspaper Al Siassa said Mauritania would administer the rest.

Al Siassa said Morocco's Saharan Governor Ahmed Bensouda had said Morocco would face up to "all political and military developments to defend its territorial integrity."

Number 121

AMMAN, FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1976 — RAB'E AWAL 18, 1396 A.H.

Price : 50 Fils

## U.S. high on agenda in France

18 (R). — Egyptian Minister Abdel Ghani El Beheiry was briefed by President Sadat today on the eve of his visit to France to discuss arms deal.

General Gamas, who is expected to buy French Mirage fighter jets, said in a statement that the Egyptian government is not interested in buying Soviet-made aircraft.

French Mirage fighter jets are expected to be bought by the Egyptian government, officials said in a statement.

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on page 6



King Hussein, Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, one of Mr. Kreisky's party, and Crown Prince Hassan are pictured during a meeting here Thursday. (JNA photo).

## King returns after positive tour; postpones visit to Mexico

Amman, 18/3 (JT). — H.M. King Hussein and H.M. Queen Alya returned home today at the same aircraft. The King's visit to the Philippines, Australia and Japan at the invitation of their respective leaders.

H.M. the King and H.M. the Queen and the Royal party had also visited Singapore and Iran.

Their Majesties were met on arrival by H.R.H. Prince Mohammed, H.R.H. Crown Prince Hassan and high ranking state officials. Princesses Alia and Basma as well as Premier Rifai and

Mrs. Rifai and other members of the party returned on the same aircraft.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Mr. Zeid Rifai declared that the King's visits to the Philippines, Australia, Japan, Singapore and Iran have been fruitful and successful in regard to all national issues presented by His Majesty to the leaders and officials of those countries.

The prime minister added that he was honoured to pay tribute to the utmost concern given by His Majesty to the (Continued on page 6)

## Top-level talks highlight Kreisky visit here

AMMAN, March 18, (Agencies). — Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky and an International Socialist delegation arrived here today from Baghdad for a two-day visit on their fact-finding tour of the Middle East.

They were met at the airport by the interim Prime Minister Subhi Amin Amr and Jordanian officials.

Mr. Kreisky had spent two days in Iraq where he had discussions with various officials.

In a statement at Amman airport, Mr. Kreisky said: "We know how important Jordan is in the area, and what it represents in the Middle East crisis. That is why we are so concerned to know the Jordanian points of view on the problem."

Later, at noon, Mr. Kreisky and his delegation met with Crown Prince Hassan at the Royal Hashemite Court.

Afterwards, Crown Prince Hassan accompanied Mr. Kreisky in a tour by helicopter over the Jordan Valley and the Prince Mohammed Bridge, following a visit to the Deir Alla region, where he was briefed by the Jordan Valley Commission Director General Omar Abdullah on the projects of the Five Year Plan and the development of the region. (Continued on page 6)



Crown Prince Hassan and Mr. Kreisky seen during their fact-finding tour of the Jordan Valley region Thursday. (JNA photo).

## Israel presents tougher posture in face of West Bank resistance



OCCUPATION MENTALITY. — Israeli police use tear gas to disperse demonstrators in the occupied West Bank Wednesday, as more Arab mayors resigned because of brutal Israeli actions against Arab residents. (AP wirephoto).

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 18, (Agencies). — Thousands of Israeli police and army troops swarmed over the West Bank today in a fresh effort to crush the continuing wave of Arab demonstrations.

Feelings ran high among West Bank Arabs following the shooting of several schoolchildren yesterday, one of whom is still in critical condition.

An eventful day of demonstrations and strikes Thursday culminated with a call by Islamic ambassadors at the U.N. for an emergency Security Council meeting to discuss the situation.

Reinforced police broke up demonstrations by several hundred Arab youngsters at Al-Haram Al-Sharif in the old city. Security forces were under orders to put down disturbances with a "mild fist," the newspapers Maa'ariv and Yedioth Aharonoth reported.

The Jerusalem Post said no trace of agitation by the PLO had been uncovered and "the violence expresses local emotions."

The curfew in Ramallah and El Bireh, north of Jerusalem, was still in force after three days. The town of Kalkul was also still under curfew and many residents were rounded up for questioning.

The Arab mayor resigned in the village of Beit Sahur near Nablus where shops were closed today. Youngsters in other towns again disrupted traffic and stoned passing Israeli vehicles.

Israeli paratroopers were brought in to help the tough border police in the southern city of Hebron, where civilian guards accompanying a Rabbi yesterday fired shots at demonstrators.

Tension rose in Hebron after Rabbi Moshe Levinger, religious leader of 1,400 Jews living in the Israeli settlement Kiryat Arava, on the outskirts of the Arab town told his followers to use their guns, against Arabs if they tried to enter the settlement.

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Arab traders in East Jerusalem staged a general strike today. Shops in the walled old city were shuttered and Arab students surged through the narrow streets urging shopkeepers to remain closed. But police warned Chamber of Commerce leaders the strike would not be tolerated.

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## Amid increasing violence renews call for Franjeh resignation

18 (R). — Lebanese President Ezer Weizman said today that he would resign if the Lebanese government would resolve the problem.

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## Hassan delays France visit as Polisario claims gains

PARIS, March 18, (Agencies). — The impending official visit to France by King Hassan of Morocco has been postponed at the request of Morocco because of the tension with Algeria over the Western Sahara, a reliable source disclosed here today.

The king was due to come at the start of April. His trip will be made at some later date, the source said.

While in Montreal, Algerian-backed Saharan guerrillas claimed that they were now striking at military targets inside Morocco and Mauritania in their "continuing fight against the de facto annexation of their territory" (formerly Western Sahara) by the two neighbour countries.

The claim was made in an interview here with Agence France Presse by two leading members of the Saharan Polisario Independence Front: Jammal Zakari member of the foreign affairs committee, and Majid Abdullah representative of the Saharan Students Union.

The two were invited to Canada by the Canadian Universities Overseas Service (SUCO).

They said the tactics now employed by Polisario aimed to the Golan Heights.

(Continued on page 6)

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## Ford postpones spring visit to Middle East

WASHINGTON, March 18, (R). — President Ford has shelved hopes of visiting Israel and Arab countries in April or May because he feels progress in Middle East peace diplomacy is unlikely this year, administration officials said today.

Such a tour by Mr. Ford in the spring had been discussed as a means of encouraging movement towards peace.

Secretary of State Henry Kissinger passed the word in January that a Ford trip to the Middle East was being planned by early May, two years after President Nixon visited the area and repaired damaged U.S. relations with Egypt and Syria.

But President Ford is reported to feel that a visit without indications of success would be a risky venture, especially as it would take place close to May 30, the expiration date for the mandate of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force on the Golan Heights.

(Continued on page 6)

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## Sen. Church announces bid for presidential nomination

IDAHO CITY, Idaho, March 18, (AFP). — Senator Frank Church today became the eighth man to announce he wanted the Democratic Party's nomination for president of the United States.

His campaign symbol is a tortoise, the racer that moves slowly but arrives first, at least in fables.

Sen. Church is one of five "liberals" vying for the Democratic nomination. The others are Congressman Morris Udall of Arizona, the Kennedy brother-in-law Sargent Shriver, former Oklahoma Senator Fred Harris, and the young California Governor Edmund Brown who became a candidate last week.

Only Representative Udall has polled a respectable number of votes in state primary elections.

President Gerald Ford has meanwhile asked former Trade Secretary Rogers Morton to replace his campaign manager

Mr. Morton recently became a political adviser to the president.

Mr. Morton is known to be a specialist on international politics and was considered the principal artisan of President Ford's primary victories in past weeks.

Mr. Morton may also meet Secretary of State Henry Kissinger during his Washington stay, officials said.

## Allon to U.S. in May

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 18 (R). — Foreign Minister Yigal Allon will visit the United States in early May for a meeting of the United States-Israel Public Relations Committee, a foreign ministry spokesman said today.

Mr. Allon will also meet Secretary of State Henry Kissinger during his Washington stay, officials said.

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An armed, masked leftist gunman stands guard outside the house of parliament in Beirut Thursday.

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## No policy at all

The concept of Israeli Defence Minister Shimon Peres touring the West Bank simultaneously rebuking and reassuring the Arab subjects of Israeli occupation is a demented one indeed.

He tells some Arab shopkeepers they will be compensated for damage done to their shops during the past month of demonstrations, and he warns the Arab population at large that the Israelis will strike hard at any further "unrest" on the West Bank.

The Arab reply to this — in the only language Israel understands — is an explosive charge underneath an Israeli car in Nablus.

The interested observer should see Mr. Peres' schizophrenic ramblings on the West Bank as an accurate portrait of the dilemma and the debacle of Israeli policies on the West Bank. In fact, there is no Israeli policy.

People like Mr. Peres have been in the forefront of the Israeli effort to encourage some kind of undefined local leadership in the area. This is a logical extension of the Israeli mind's total inability to appreciate the reality of Arab and Palestinian nationalism in the region. The West Bank is to revert to Palestinian leadership under the PLO. The more this becomes clear the harder the Israelis try to foster some other kind of make-believe administration in the area.

When the residents of the occupied Arab lands erupt in a spontaneous wave of anti-Israeli demonstrations, the Israelis are not sure what to do. So they try both approaches: on the one hand they send in thousands of armed troops to blanket the region in a manner that shows the base reality of their military occupation, and they also go around talking about helping people repair damaged shops and making sure essential municipal services are maintained.

This stems from the fundamental failure of Israel to define its purposes and intentions in the occupied Arab lands. This is something of a psychological buffer zone for them. As long as they can remain confused and undecided about the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights, this will keep them that much further away from having to define their aims in the heart of Palestine proper.

The continuing wave of demonstrations by the Arab population in the West Bank is a blunt sign that the Israelis are not wanted.

For Mr. Peres to react by verbalising the full extent of his mental haze is not very surprising. This is what happens when the Zionist psyche is confronted with the reality of Zionist deeds in Palestine.

## ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Ad Dustour said Thursday that the statement by Jordan's delegate at the United Nations was a clear-cut rebuff to Israeli rumours and calumnies relating to the Palestinian issue.

The statement reaffirmed Jordan's keenness to rescue the occupied Arab lands without acquiring any gains for itself. "One aspect of the complex Israeli planning is to deprive the Palestinians of the only logical solution of their problem—their return to their legitimate usurped home", the paper said. At one time Israel wants them to be absorbed into the neighbouring Arab countries, at another, it wants them to have their own state outside Palestine. In either case, Jordan was meant to be dragged in, by virtue of its special organic relationship with Palestine.

Ad Dustour pointed out that the world public opinion is now too well aware of the dimensions of the issue to be benumbed by the old Zionist machinations. The issue, says the paper, is no less than the liberation of a clearly defined portion of land... Attempts to create a split between the Palestinians and their Arab brethren, particularly the Jordanians, have become an old trick, now that the Jordanian delegate has rightly declared that Jordan is committed to the Rabat summit resolutions and is sincerely co-operating with the rest of the Arab countries to achieve

the national, unanimous objective of liberating the Arab land and obliterating the stigma of foreign domination, the paper said.

Al Ra'i on the other hand deplored the fact that the Arab situation had deteriorated to an unprecedented extent... Citing several occasions, it says the "disintegration" of Lebanon has not only rendered it incapable of playing its role in the Arab "march forward", but has also become a source of preoccupation to Palestinian resistance, forces and posed a serious threat to the Syrian politico-military mobilisation, in preparation for next May, when the mandate of the United Nations peace-keeping forces will end. On Egypt, the paper said that Dr Kissinger, praising Sadat's 'moderation' in cancelling his treaty with the Soviets, has asked Congress to approve the sale of merely six military transport planes to Egypt... and no more arms in the future... In the Arab North Africa, Al Ra'i says three Arab countries are locked together in an unjustified dispute over the Sahara, that might turn into an armed conflict. All this is happening while in Cairo, the Arab foreign ministers are meeting to study the 'Arab situation' and a possible Arab summit meeting... "One wonders", says the paper, "how the ministers are going to discuss this odd situation, without being struck with nausea at the illustrious tables of the Arab League..."



THE PEACE DISH

## New import-export incentives outlined

AMMAN. — The government is working to conclude a general cooperation agreement with the European Economic Community (EEC) to obtain facilities for the export of its products, in particular fertilizers, to the EEC member countries, and is concluding various agreements with other countries for the same purpose.

Such authorities as the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and the Central Bank have been entrusted to simplify export procedures.

A special insurance fund will be set up by the above two institutions to insure Jordanian exports against risk and non-payment by foreign importers.

Also, the Chambers of Industry and Commerce will establish a joint bureau to standardise and simplify export formalities.

Finally, the import of raw material will be encouraged for use in local production by providing incentives such as customs exemptions and financial guarantees.

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce is also studying the possibility of an investment encouragement law amendment for the purpose of providing better incentives for exporting industrial projects, and for giving Arab and foreign investors better chances to establish individual industrial projects for export purposes only, or participating with indigenous capital, sources said here today.

The amendment will permit the government to conclude special agreements with Arab and

foreign investors, identifying interests, incentives, exemptions and commitments relative to the establishment of any industrial project.

The proposed amendment will also cover additional incentives for industries produc-

ing raw or semi-processed materials for established industries, shareholding companies, privately owned companies to be expanded to shareholding companies and cottage industries to be grouped in bigger economic units.

## Jordanian-Iraqi economic, commercial talks begin

AMMAN. — Economic and commercial talks started here Thursday morning at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce between Iraq and Jordan, to increase and consolidate existing commercial and economic relations between the two countries.

Dr. Hashem Dabbas the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, who is heading the Jordanian side to the talks welcomed the Iraqi delegation and pointed out that Iraq and Jordan were the forerunners in the field of economic integration between Arab countries in that they were the first to have signed the Arab Economic Unity agreement and the pact of the Arab Common Market. The two countries have always endeavoured to surmount all obstacles which faced Arab unity, he said.

A new page, he added, was opened in economic relations between Jordan and Iraq with the conclusion of the economic and technical cooperation agreement which was signed last year in Amman during the visit of an Iraqi economic delegation. The agreement resulted in the establishment of joint industrial ventures.

Mr. Mahdi Al Obaidi the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce Dr. Hashem Dabbas will, in his capacity as President of the Jordanian Economists Society, attend the seminar organised by the Arab Economists Society to be held in Kuwait on March 27-29. The three-day seminar will discuss the existing world and Arab economic situation besides the effect of oil revenues on the economies of the Arab states.

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Exports went to Kuwait, Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia, India, Japan, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Poland, Italy, France and Nationalist China. The main imports consisted of rice (JD 816,000), cars and spare parts (JD 724,000), electrical appliances (JD 615,000), crude oil (JD 401,000), vegetables (JD 347,000), pharmaceutical products (JD 341,000), silk and woolen textiles (JD 283,000), sheep (JD 242,000) and tires (JD 179,000). These came from the United States, England, Japan, France, Syria, Holland, West Germany, Saudi Arabia, Belgium, Austria, India and Italy.



STOP OVER. — His Majesty King Hussein and Queen Alya during their stopover in Teheran, way home being greeted by the Shah of Iran at airport Wednesday. (AP wirephoto).

## Today is "Aqsa d"

AMMAN, March 18 (JNA). — The Islamic World League issued a statement in Amman yesterday paying tribute to the uprising of the Arab inhabitants of the occupied West Bank in the face of Israeli designs on Islamic holy places in the occupied territories.

The statement said that the Israelis had worked according to a well-studied plan to seize the holiest shrines of the Arabs and Moslems but the Arab citizens in the occupied territories had stood up valiantly to defend the Aqsa Mosque and their lands.

The statement called on the Arab and Moslem peoples and governments alike to support their brethren and pool all their resources to face the difficult situation and to hasten

to rescue the Aqsa himi mosques and lem and Christian The League in d (tomorrow) "Aqsa port of and solid Arab people of t territories.

## French gen meets the I

AMMAN. — His ness Crown Prince ceived Thursday n Royal Hashemite French Chief of Claude Grigaut c visit here.

The Jordanian Chief of Staff was ring the interview the French ambas dan.



Crown Prince Hassan meets with Austrian Chancellor Kreisky in Amman Th

## North Yemeni envoy visits Tokyo

TOKYO, March 18 (R). — Mr. Mohamed Saif Thabet, a national of Yemen Arab Republic who is Japan's honorary consul general in Sanaa will visit here for 10 days from March 21, the Foreign Ministry announced today.

He will meet officials of the ministries for foreign affairs and international trade and industry affairs as well as business leaders.

Mr. Thabet is president of the Yemen Engineering and Contracting Company and Executive Director of the Yemen Reconstruction Development Bank and has close contacts with his country's government leaders, it said.



Prime Minister Rifai and Mr. Kreisky are shown talks in Amman Thursday. (JNA photo).

## NATIONAL BRIEFS

● AMMAN. — The President of the National Red Crescent Society, at the invitation of the Turkish Red Crescent Society, will visit Turkey in late April. Talks are expected to centre on the possibility of increasing cooperation between the two humanitarian societies.

● AMMAN. — Mr. Marwan Al Hmoud, Minister of Agriculture, will pay an official 4-day visit to Iraq on March 27.

● AMMAN. — The Syrian industry minister arrives in Amman early next month for talks with his Jordanian counterpart on the joint Jordanian-Syrian Industrial Company.

The Company aims at producing joint products such as cement, aluminium and textiles, and at exploiting the raw materials available in both countries.

● AMMAN. — The Director General of the Cooperatives So-

ciety Marwan Hmt here Saturday for i re he will visit S land and Italy to k cooperative activiti countries.

● AMMAN. — The State for Foreign san Ibrahim will k for Tunis where he sent Jordan in the t be held there on t of Tunisian Indepen

Dr. Ibrahim headed nian delegation to League Council mee started last Monda

● AMMAN. — J been invited to an e ference held by the of Oxford which will ce between July 11- don. The theme of rence deals with the poor countries and of their relations on nal society.

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ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET. — Iran's Princess Fathemeh received the key to New York City Tuesday from Mayor Beame.

## Egypt reaffirms Geneva conference commitment

CAIRO, March 17, (Agency). — Egypt still favours a resumption of the Middle East Peace Conference in Geneva, co-chaired by the Soviet Union and the United States, despite ending its friendship treaty with Moscow, Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmi said today.

"The termination of this treaty has no bearing on the resumption of the Conference," Mr Fahmi said in an interview with the semi-official daily Al-Ahram.

The newspaper today reported that foreign ministers attending an Arab League Council meeting in Cairo this week backed Egypt's decision to cancel the 1971 pact, "contending that Moscow had in fact cancelled the treaty before Egypt did" by failing to honour its terms.

Egypt still insists that the

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) attend the Geneva Middle East Conference once it is resumed, despite the cancellation of the treaty, according to the Cairo press today.

Informed sources quoted in the newspapers said the move would have no effect on Egypt's attitude towards the Geneva talks, namely that the PLO should take part on the same basis as other parties. Egypt holds this viewpoint in common with the Soviet Union.

The mass-circulation Al-Akhbar today carried a front page article by editor Mussa Sabri urging the Soviet Union to review its policies towards Egypt and blaming Moscow for the ending of the pact.

The article said: "The abrogation of the treaty was not meant to escalate Soviet hostility towards Egypt."

Observers saw this as an apparent attempt to reassure the Kremlin that Cairo had no intention of breaking off diplomatic relations with Moscow.

Mr Sabri emphasised that "Egypt would never become an American colony, nor has it ever been a Soviet one."

He added: "We have tried hard to preserve the treaty, but (Soviet party leader Leonid Brezhnev has done his best to cancel it."

Egypt has bitterly complained at the Soviet refusal to reschedule the massive Egyptian military debts and to replace military equipment lost during the 1973 war with Israel.

President Anwar Sadat has described Moscow's refusal as serious pressure intended to undermine the country's economy.

## But Pravda shows understanding

## N.Y. Times: Ford's attempt to penalise USSR 'laughable'

NEW YORK, March 18 (AFP). — The State Department's decision to call off three sets of talks to penalise the Soviet Union for being in Angola was "petty" and "laughable," yet harmful the New York Times said today.

The newspaper's editorialist poured scorn on President Ford for trying to make electoral capital by halting the talks, on co-operation in energy, housing and trade. The decision was announced by the State Department two days ago.

"As a rebuke for Soviet actions in Angola, suspension of the scheduled meetings is so trivial as to be laughable: as an interruption of a modest process to encourage co-operation... (it) has vitiated whatever beneficial effects might have emerged," the editorialist said.

"There will be no news photos of high Soviet and American officials shaking hands in Moscow," the New York Times concluded, "and that, in the Khatibi of the Red Lion and present political mood, is all Sum Society said yesterday that seems to matter now."

The Soviet Communist Party newspaper, Pravda, however commented favourably today on detente with the United States — two days after the U.S. training camps set up by the State Department announced its decision to cancel three sets of talks with the U.S. in pro-



WHOOPEE — Panama's strongman Omar Torrijos (left) and an aide celebrated the inauguration of the new Panama Dam Hydroelectric Project by leaping into the Panama River in full uniform Tuesday. (AP wirephoto).

## Spanish opposition parties form united front

MADRID, March 18 (R). — last November. Spain's opposition parties last night announced they had formed a united front to work for free general elections and trade union and political liberties.

A communiqué issued by an inter-party coordinating committee said the opposition had agreed to establish a united organisation with immediate effect.

The opposition had previously been divided between the communist led Democratic Junta — which included independent democrats, splinter group socialists and the clandestine trade union organisation known as the Workers Commissions — and a second alliance called the Democratic Platform, which grouped the Christian Democrats, the mainstream Spanish Socialist Party and regional federalist parties.

Both alliances had already formed a coordinating committee which had been working towards opposition unity since the death of General Franco.

The government's reform timetable includes a referendum on political change later this summer and elections next year, with the exclusion of the Communist Party.

## Jordan's U.N. representative blasts Israel

UNITED NATIONS, March 17, (R). — Israeli claims that the Palestinians had already achieved their rights and self-determination within Jordan are and more than a ruse, Ambassador Abdul Hamid Sharaf, Jordan's chief U.N. representative said while addressing the U.N. Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

"Israel cannot escape its responsibility for displacing the refugees and occupying the Palestinian territory by playing semantic games in which it alleges that the Palestinians have already achieved their rights and self-determination within Jordan," he declared.

Mr. Sharaf said a political and constitutional unity was established between Jordan and the West Bank in 1950, following the 1948-1949 Arab-Israeli war.

This unity was established without prejudice of the full rights of the Palestinian people and was based on Jordan's commitment to their self-determination "when circumstances permitted or whenever possible."

In solidarity with the rest of the Arab peoples, Jordan concurred in the unanimous decision of the 1974 Arab Summit conference in Rabat in recognising the Palestine Liberation Organisation as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, he added.

Earlier, Mr. Sharaf said the Palestinians were prevented from exercising their inalienable rights by a "ruthless and aggressive force."

## Bulgaria-staunch ally of USSR in E. Europe

SOFIA, March 18, (AFP). — Bulgaria, the Soviet Union's most faithful friend inside the Eastern European bloc, is preparing for its Eleventh Communist Party Congress that is expected to produce new signs of affection for the Kremlin.

Leonid Brezhnev, the Soviet Communist Party Secretary General, is expected to attend.

This year's congress, on March 29, coincides with the 100th anniversary of the uprising of April 1876—a bloodbath which, two years later, was to lead to Russia liberating Bulgaria from Turkish control.

This is a date that is engraved in the history of the country, and the Bulgarian leaders can be expected to reiterate their gratitude and their affection for the Soviet leaders.

This little country, with a population of 8.7 million people gives the impression to a foreigner of being entirely and resolutely turned towards the East and of showing little weakness for the "temptations of the West."

One of the reasons for this, besides the obvious language, cultural and historical links with the Soviet Union, is that Bulgaria, more than any other East European country, has benefited most from Comecon, the Eastern Bloc common market.

For the average Bulgarian, though, the number one problem remains the accommodation crisis.

In Sofia, except for priority cases such as large families, most people have to wait from seven to 10 years before finding a home of their own.

When they do get one, however, they usually buy it and the state encourages this by providing 20-year loans.

It is this housing problem which, no doubt, explains the fact that the birth-rate has dropped dramatically over the past 35 years or so, slumping from 21.4 per 1,000 in 1939 to 17.2 per 1,000 in 1974.

Bulgaria does not seem to have experienced the internal unrest that has shaken the tougher countries of the Eastern Bloc. The intelligentsia has shown no real desire for independence, and when it has wandered off the orthodox line, it has been firmly put back in place, but without persecution.

Once an exclusively agricultural country, famed in particular for its fruits and dairy products, Bulgaria has considerably developed its industrial potential. In this, it has been helped by massive aid from the Soviet Union, which can in part be explained by the Kremlin's desire to help such a staunch ally.

The industrialisation of the

country was carried out in an erratic manner, however, and has produced serious pollution problems.

Parallel to this industrial progress, Bulgaria has also been a pioneer in the development of agro-industrial combines, which have replaced the old farm cooperatives. These combines usually cover something like 40,000 hectares each and use some of the latest intensive farming methods, coupled with modern marketing techniques.

Families working on the combines are allowed a small plot for themselves, plus a few animals, and they sell their own produce.

The raising of the country's standard of living remains, meanwhile, one of the major tasks of the authorities, but it is a slow process.

A "national programme for the raising of the standard of living" was launched in 1972, while 72 per cent of the revenue for the next five-year plan will be ear-marked for the consumer industry.

The Bulgarian Orthodox Church, partly because it has lit-

U.S.-Soviet Union near agreement on test limitation

WASHINGTON, Mar. 18, (AFP). — U.S.-Soviet talks on a treaty limiting peaceful nuclear explosions are almost concluded, the prestigious New York Times newspaper reported here today.

The newspaper, quoting high-ranking U.S. officials, said that many technical details had been settled and agreement reached on the need to send inspectors to test sites.

The talks opened in Autumn 1974.

Several important problems have yet to be resolved, principally the length of any agreement, the power of authorised explosions and the number of inspectors present during tests, the New York Times report said.

The U.S. hopes to reach agreement by March 31 when a complementary treaty limiting nuclear arms' tests to a strength of two kilotons comes into force.

This treaty was reached in July 1974 between Soviet Communist Party leader Leonid Brezhnev and the then U.S. President Richard Nixon. It foreshadowed wider discussions on a second pact on peaceful nuclear explosions.

Since the beginning of the year, the U.S. has conducted nine nuclear tests against 16 last year. The Soviet Union has carried out no nuclear tests this year.

## Wiretaps banned on Americans overseas

WASHINGTON, Mar. 18 (AFP).

— American military authorities will no longer have the right to tap the telephones of American civilians working abroad without the prior permission of an American court.

This decision, announced here yesterday by federal judge William Jones, stems from a court case filed against the U.S. Army by 20 Americans living in West Germany. They had accused the American military command in that country of tapping their phones in 1972 and 1973 through the intermediary of the West German authorities.

Most of them were members of the Democratic Party and had voted in favour of Senator George McGovern in the November, 1972 president elections. After the Watergate scandal they had also urged destitution proceedings against President Richard Nixon.

After the Army had allegedly released information about them, certain Americans reportedly lost their jobs.

## Kurd refugees return to Iraq

TEHERAN, March 18, (R). — Most of the 160,000 Iraqi Kurds who sought refuge in Iran have said.

"There will be no news photos of high Soviet and American officials shaking hands in Moscow," the New York Times concluded, "and that, in the Khatibi of the Red Lion and present political mood, is all Sum Society said yesterday that seems to matter now."

Managing director Hussein Khatibi of the Red Lion and present political mood, is all Sum Society said yesterday that seems to matter now."

The Soviet Communist Party newspaper, Pravda, however commented favourably today on detente with the United States — two days after the U.S. training camps set up by the State Department announced its decision to cancel three sets of talks with the U.S. in pro-

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## North-South dialogue starts 2nd phase in Paris

PARIS, March 18 (R). — Industrial and developing nations today begin the second phase of complex new negotiations to work out a fairer distribution of the world's riches.

The second round of bargaining starts in the 15-member energy commission of the conference on international economic cooperation, better known as the north-south dialogue.

Negotiations on the other main topics in the dialogue resume on Friday by four commissions on raw materials, development and international finance.

The confidential negotiations, held in the same international conference complex where the Vietnamese peace talks were held, are expected to continue to the end on next week. Future sessions are scheduled in April, June and July.

The first round ended on February 20 with little more than agreement on the work programmes for the four commissions. Progress was slowest in the energy group, which could explain why it is starting ahead of the others this time.

Officials from the industrial side expect the producers and their developing allies to push for the analysis to be completed at the March session.

"They also want to talk about the protection of their resources, which means indexation," one official said.

Indexation is a mechanism for linking oil and other raw material prices to western inflation rates, which the industrial nations have so far resolutely refused to countenance.

More sessions of the commissions will be arranged after July leading up to a second, 27-member ministerial conference at the end of the year. The ministers, who set the dialogue in motion at a first conference here last December, would be called upon to vote on proposals from the four commissions.

For the industrial nations, the energy commission is by far the most important because it provides them with their only opportunity to hold direct negotiations with the oil exporting nations.

Topics covered by the three other commissions are all being discussed in existing international bodies.

This month's sessions of the energy commission is expected to be devoted mainly to a comparison of projections for world

petroleum production side, analyses of the past and future world energy situation have been prepared by the 18-nation International Energy Agency — the Oil Consumers Group set up after the 1973 oil crisis — the European Common Market

and the United States.

The producers and developing world, which have maintained a united front in negotiations so far, are also expected to present their views on how the world energy market will develop up to 1985.

## Special steel imports threaten to start trade war

WASHINGTON, Mar. 18, (AFP). — President Ford's compromise bid on special steel imports reflects internal tension combined with a desire to avoid an international trade war.

On the home front, he has little room to manoeuvre. If he had rejected the International Trade Commission's 146,000 tons a year quota figure or raised it considerably the Congress would have over-ruled him no doubt and put forward Congress's own ideas, as the U.S. Trade Act of 1974 allows it to.

The fact that this is election year means that protectionist sentiment is strong in Congress at the moment.

Internationally, the U.S. authorities are loth to trigger off a world trade battle, although they are apparently stepping up their attacks on what they regard as unfair competition.

The Americans know that, if they unilaterally clamp on import quotas, they face reprisals. Japan has already said that it may well retaliate in the realm of aluminium ingots it imports from the United States.

Mr Ford has delayed quotas three months, hoping that voluntary limitations can be arranged meantime. This compromise move should win acceptance by Congress, not least because, accounting for the vacation, the 90-day deadline will not be reached until September.

Japan, the European Community countries and Sweden could agree to Mr Ford's request for a voluntary effort because they, too, dislike the idea of a trade war, according to industry sources here.

At the same time, they consider that the American stance on special steels is contrary to international understanding on trade.

The Americans have already hinted that they may give their trade partners some form of "compensation" in other sectors.

Why has there been such a

fuss about special steels? Because it is the first test case under the 1974 U.S. Trade Act in the sphere of protection. Special steels, in fact, account for a mere 0.5 per cent of U.S. imports.

President Ford has had to make his mind up against a backdrop of monetary turmoil, and it is fair to say that the U.S. has no wish to rock that boat either.

Monetary expert Edwin Yeo of the Treasury Department has just said: "The one thing we don't want is an exchange rate war."

It was thought possible that Japan and the other countries concerned in the steel question may wait some time before adopting a position, because they want to make sure the U.S. will not move into a protectionist period.

The forthcoming presidential decision on footwear, and the matter of car "dumping" will enable them to see more clearly in the next few weeks.

## EEC donates food to African countries

BRUSSELS, March 18 (AFP). — The European Economic Community (EEC) is planning to send 3,000 tons of grain, 100 tons of powdered milk and 80 tons of liquidified butter to an estimated 80,000 Saharan refugees it was learned here.

The EEC commission will submit the aid plan for approval to the nine EEC member governments during the next few days.

The plan also involves sending 2,000 tons of grain, powdered milk and 100 tons of butter to Angolan refugees in Zaïre as well as 20 tons of powdered milk to be distributed inside Angola through Red Cross channels.

Last October, the EEC gave 100 tons of powdered milk for Angola.



WELL? IT'S LIKE THIS. — As Italy's economic crisis continued Wednesday, the Minister of Finance tried his best to answer reporters as he arrived at Chigi Palace for an emergency cabinet meeting. (AP wirephoto).

## Iran signs Japanese petrochemical agreement

TOKYO, Mar. 18, (R). — Japan today signed an agreement to supply Iran with a 28,800 million yen (€ 47 million) loan for their joint petrochemical complex project in the Arabian gulf, the Foreign Ministry said.

The ministry said it was the largest project to be undertaken by Japan in the Middle East.

Japanese ambassador to Iran Katsunichi Ikawa and Iranian Economic and Finance Vice-Minister Javad Vafa exchanged notes on the agreement in Tehran.

The project is to build a petrochemical complex to produce 300,000 tons of ethylene annually and various by-products by converting wasted gas from oil fields along the Gulf coast, the Ministry said. The complex is expected to begin operating by 1979.

The loan, from the semi-official Import-Export Bank of Japan, will be repayable over 20 years including a five-year grace period at an annual interest rate of four per cent.

The project will be implemented by a consortium of Japanese firms led by the giant Mitsui and Company, jointly with Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC).

## Kuwait invited to build petro-chemical complex in Romania

KUWAIT, March 17, (R). — Romania has invited Kuwait to help set up a petro-chemical complex on Romania's Black Sea coast.

The sources said the Romanian proposals were made by Minister of State Nicolae Ionescu at a meeting here yesterday with Kuwait's Oil minister, Mr. Abdul-Muttaleb Al-Kasimi.

The sources said Kuwait agreed to discuss the proposals and they would be raised during President Ceausescu's forthcoming visit.

## Monetary speculations weaken the French franc

BOON, March 18 (AFP). — widened to nearly 4.9 per cent at the opening. And sterling was the currency that firmed up against the Swiss franc, which was chief target of speculation when rumours of an imminent revaluation of the Deutsche mark inside the European "snake" unsettled the markets yesterday.

In inter-bank business in Paris, the French franc weakened across the board, most significantly against the Deutsche mark.

The dollar was worth 4.7 against 4.702 and sterling was marked up at 9.045 from last night's closing rate of 9.03.

In Tokyo the dollar was down to a six-month low of 300 yen after touching 299.5. Yesterday's rate was 300.5. The American currency had not reached these levels since last September, when it was quoted at 28.

The market was quiet in London. Sterling continued the recovery it began late yesterday and was quoted at 1.9280 dollars.

The dollar firmed up against the French franc and the Deutsche mark.

## UN \$49m to off Mozambique losses

UNITED NATIONS, New York, March 18 (AFP). — France "heartily" in favour of international aid for Mozambique compensation for that country's decision to apply United Nations sanctions against Rhodesia, French representative Jacques Lecompt told the Security Council here last night.

The French pledge followed the submission by 11 council members of a resolution calling on all U.N. members to give immediate financial, technical and material aid to Mozambique. The resolution was later adopted unanimously.

Mozambique has asked for a minimum of 49 million dollars to offset losses caused by the severance of trade links with Rhodesia.

Speaking on the second day of the council debate on the issue, Mr. Lecompt said that U.N. sanctions "must be applied and even strengthened."

He said the sanctions reflected the "determination of world's nations not to allow the perpetuation of an illegal and unjust regime."

## Taiwan buys oil from Indonesia, Saudi Arabia

TAIPEI, March 18 (R). — Taiwan has agreed to import 10 million barrels of crude oil a year from Indonesia for next five years, National Economic Minister Yeh Sun said.

In a report to parliament yesterday, Mr. Sun also said Taiwan would buy more crude from Saudi Arabia, which estimated was now supplying the island with 20,000 barrels a day.

No value for the Indonesia contract was stated.



POLLUTION SOLUTION. — Giant bag filters trap alumina dust particles in a new air pollution control system developed by the Aluminum Company of America. The dry process treats carbon furnace gas fumes containing hydrocarbons, coke dust and fluorides, and discharges clean air. It eliminates the need for large quantities of water used in wet systems.

## LONDON MARKET REPORT

Trading was subdued on the stock exchange Thursday with little sign of any genuine investment support as dealers weighed up the uncertainties surrounding the economic, political and currency scene.

The results from the oil-giant, British Petroleum, were as expected in most quarters, but the shares lost early gains. Other oils were marked lower.

Most leading industrials moved similarly after an initial mark up, and the Financial Times Industrial Shares Index closed with a net loss of 1.1 at 396.1, after gaining 2.2 points in early trading. However Turner and Newall and Glaxo progressed.

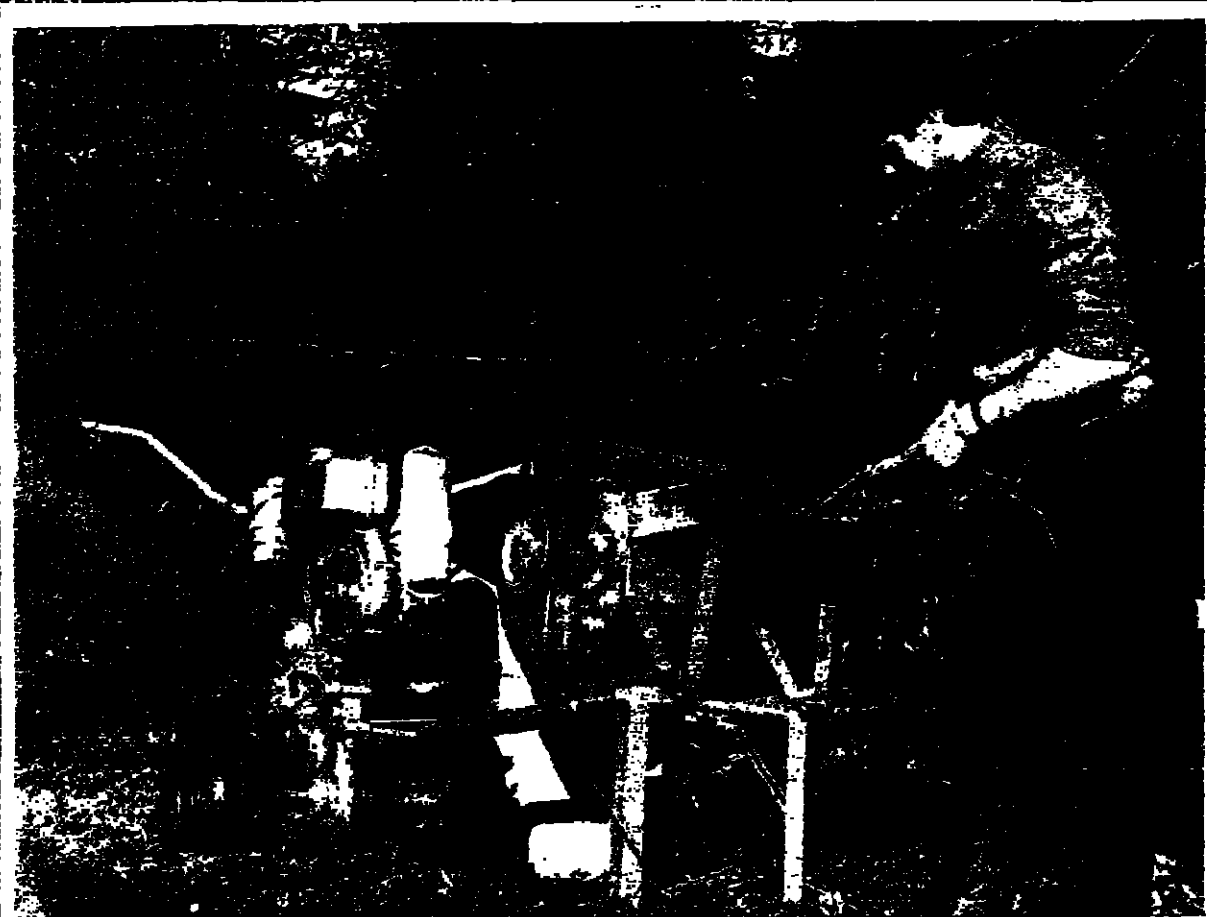
Banks edged higher in front of the results of Lloyd's 74 million pound rights issues, due Friday although Hongkong Shanghai eased. Insurances were undecided.

Gilt ran back after early gains. Golds recovered initial losses helped by the firmer bullion price.

## Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates at the close of the business day yesterday. The two figures denote buying and selling prices in Jordanian fils.

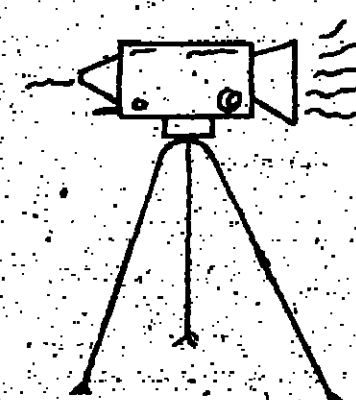
U.S. dollar:	331.0	331.0
U.K. sterling:	639.0	645.0
French franc:	71.2	71.5
Swiss franc:	131.4	131.8
German mark:	131.0	131.4
Iraqi dinar:	915.0	925.0
Saudi riyal:	93.2	93.7
Syrian pound:	84.0	84.1
Egyptian pound:	455.0	560.5
Lebanese pound:	131.0	132.2
UAE dirham:	83.3	83.8



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Friday.

# Centennial Salute to Boston's Arab heritage

calendar month of the Centennial Year—led by the East Boston with a salute to the heri- Arab-American citi- tury.

Office of Cultural d the city-wide ducational and cul- to give residents ciation of the to Boston's as representing 000 Arab-Ameri- he Mayor's Office r-ang series of ere part of "Fe- an," a monthly lnce designed to d facets of the Capital's cultu- White observed tage Month hon- dity and profun- dity and artistry culture."

variety of public January "Arab as open to the nessed by addi- thousands of pe- l television bro- hugh city Hall of Revolution- ded a delightful the diversely e main corridors dpture, painting, raphy, calligrap- rafts representing Middle Eastern ican artists and the Boston Mu-

Arab-American University Gra- duates, an organization which seeks to establish ties among Arabic-speaking professionals and to promote mutual respect and understanding between the peoples of America and the Arab World.

The month of official recog- nition of Boston's Arab heritage brought the Arab-American com- munity closer together and in- spired plans for a new Arab Cul- tural and Learning Center, ac- cording to Committee Chairper- son Judith Leon.

"A Beacon Street location al- ready has been donated to ho- use the center," she said, "and within six months we hope to begin organizing educational and cultural programs.

"We envision such activities as Arabic language lessons, han- dcraft instruction to redeve- lop skills of our heritage, dance workshops, and training in mus- ic. We will try to plan a pro- gram which can enrich the com- munity and enhance our com- mon Arab identity."

Ms. Leon said books have been donated to start a library and several of the City Hall ex- hibits set up for the "Arab Ce- lebration" will be retained for a permanent collection in the center.

The wide-ranging City Hall exhibits included a ten-foot de- licate abstract bronze sculpture and three smaller works by Douglas Abdell. A Lebanese American, he has exhibited wi- dely in the United States and is represented in collections at the Corcoran Gallery in Wash- ington, D.C.; St. Mary's College of Maryland; and Wichita State University Art Museum in Kan- sas.

A display of paintings spot- lighted ten contemporary Arab- American artists whose work includes both American and Middle Eastern themes.

Dramatic photographs were interspersed with poetry in an attraction entitled "Moods and Places," representing poets from Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine and Syria. One of the most fa- miliar to Bostonians was poet- philosopher Khalil Gibran. He and other family members came to Boston from Lebanon in 1895 when he was 12 years old.

Among the exhibits were his- toric photographs showing the Arab World as early immigrants left it and recording their first days after settling in Boston's South End.

The evolution of Boston's Arab-American community from the mid 19th century to the present was the subject of a "Festival Bostonian" lecture at Harvard University by Dr. El-



ARAB CELEBRATION. — A wide array of Arab delicacies was part of an afternoon of displays and information on the Arab culture, part of Festival Bostonian's Arab Celebration. Festival Bostonian, a programme of the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs, each month celebrates the cultural heritage of one of Boston's seventeen major ethnic groups.

aine Hagopian, Professor of So- ciology at Simmons College.

Many of the early immigra- ts were men from Syria and Lebanon, she said, who began coming to Boston around 1850 to work as peddlers, laborers or in the garment industry. She noted they expected to send money home and then return to their countries of origin, but many married and remained in the Boston area.

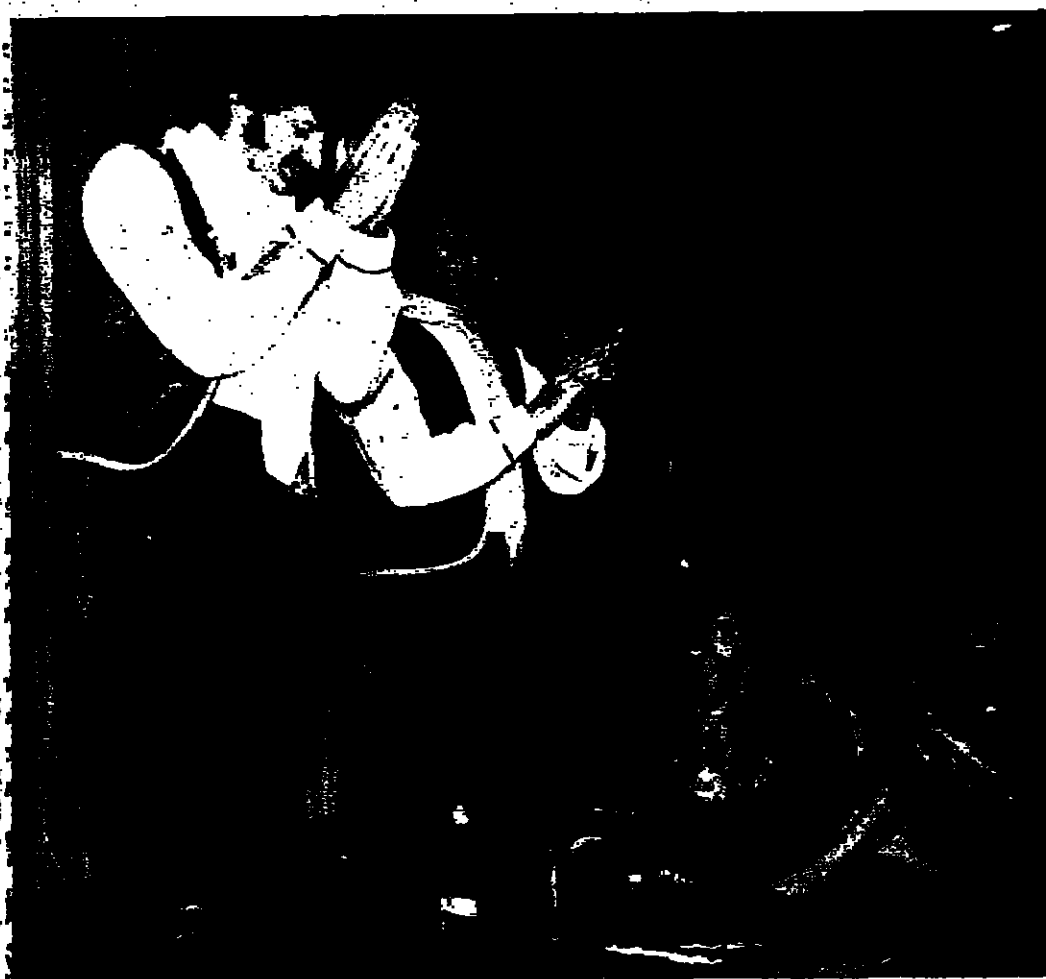
In the 1950's Dr Hagopian continued, a second large im- migration brought professionals from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan Leban- on, Saudi Arabia, and Palesti- ne.

The chronicle of Arab immi- gration into Boston was vividly portrayed in a special tele- vision program produced by WCVB-TV of Needham, Massa- chusetts.

The 30-minute film, broad- cast on two occasions throug- out the Boston area, highlight- ed the religious, civic, and cultural involvement of the Arabic-spe- aking community.

Some 15 Arab-Americans nar- rated the production. They spoke of the commitment to edu- cation in the local Arab-Ame- rican community in which "ov- er 60 per cent of the young peo- ple go to college." And they proudly cited the "adaptability of their people to a new life in a new land while retaining the- ir own individuality, their own beliefs—cherishing these and making themselves a part of American life."

A quotation from Khalil Gib- ran was read as a moving re- minder of the Arab-American community's dual commitment to a distinguished heritage and



VAL. — Traditional Arab song and dance were featured at a gala "Haufl" as al Bostonian's Arab Celebration.

## Tonight's TV Features

**FAMILY AT WAR**

March 1942: Edwin and Jean must try and bridge the gulf that has opened between them. Tony Briggs brings Jenny home to Liverpool, and Sheila has a surprise visitor.

**MYSTERY MOVIE**

**MCCOY: NEW DOLLAR WAY**

Three crooks steal from priest sums of money. McCoy goes after them and tricks them into returning money destined for charitable purposes.

**THRILLSEEKERS**

A half hour documentary about daring men and their deeds.

Television		Radio		Market Price	
3 & 6:	20.00 News in Arabic	(ON 856 KHZ)	7.00 Breakfast show	Apples (golden): 130-170	Oranges: 80-120
an	CHANNEL 3:	7.30 News Bulletin	7.30 Morning melodies	Apples (starken): 140-180	Onions (dry): 150-190
mic figures	19.30 Religious programme	7.45 Pop International	8.00 Listener's Choice	Apples (double red): 200-260	Onions (green): 140-200
ey of the Dino-	20.30 Arabic series	8.30 Sign off	10.00 Pop session (part I)	Bell pepper: 200-280	Potatoes (local): 90-120
s	21.30 Documentary pro-	12.00 News Summary	13.00 Pop session (part II)	Bananas: 150-190	Potatoes (Egyp.): 80-110
nce for children	gramme	13.03 News Bulletin	14.00 Break for Music	Cabbage: 40-55	Peas: 180-220
be stooges	CHANNEL 6:	14.10 Songs	14.30 Classical music	Cauliflower: 50-70	Spinach: 40-60
ic series	19.30 News in Hebrew	15.00 Old Favourites	16.00 Easy listening	Carrots (yellow): 40-55	String beans: 200-240
smoke	19.45 Varieties	16.30 Opera in Germany	17.00 Book Review	Carrots (black): 50-65	Tangarines: 70-100
ic series	20.30 Thrillseekers	17.30 News Summary	18.05 News Reports Round	Cucumbers (small): 120-160	Tomatoes: 50-70
smoke	21.00 Living tomorrow	18.30 Principal foods	18.30 Good Vibrations	Cucumbers (large): 70-100	
ic series	21.10 Family at war	19.00 News Bulletin	19.10 Songs	Eggplant (large): 80-120	
gramme review	22.00 News in English	19.30 Sign off		Eggplant (small): 80-120	
oons	22.10 Mystery movie (on			Grapefruit: 50-65	
er match	both channels)			Green walnut (local): 180-220	
				Green walnut (dry): 200-240	
				Green walnut (Sy.): 240-300	
				Garlic (dry): 50-70	
				Garlic (green): 140-200	
				Lettuce (large): 60-80	
				Lettuce (small): 30-50	
				Lemon: 80-110	
				Horse beans: 80-110	
				Hot pepper: 400-500	
				Marrow (small): 100-140	
				Marrow (large): 50-70	

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Dr. Naef Khadra (44427)

**PHARMACIES:**  
Isaaf: (30310)  
Yared: (72778)  
Jamil: (37291)

**TAXIS:**  
Hamra: (44833)  
Khayyam: (41541)  
Nahda: (37882)



## Kuwait satisfied with OPEC HQ

VIENNA, March 18, (R). — Arab oil states have told Chancellor Bruno Kreisky they will not seek to move the headquarters of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) from Vienna, Austrian sources said today.

Austrian newspapers reported that Kuwait's Oil Minister, Abdel Muttaleb Al-Kazimi, told Dr Kreisky the Arab members of OPEC were happy for the organisation's secretariat to stay here.

After a guerrilla raid on OPEC headquarters in December in which three people were killed and 10 oil ministers were taken hostage, several member countries criticised Austria for not providing tighter security and hinted they favoured a move.

OPEC officials have declined to comment on reports that the organisation might move back to Geneva, from where it came to Vienna in 1965.

Dr Kreisky met the Kuwaiti minister on Tuesday during a tour of Arab capitals at the head of a Socialist International delegation.

Austrian Foreign Minister Erich Bielka, who toured Arab Gulf states last week, received a pledge of support for OPEC staying in Vienna from another member country, the United Arab Emirates.

## Healy joins Labour Party contenders

(Continued from page 1)

Downing Street stakes outright when results of the first round of balloting are announced on March 25. A second ballot was thought likely and it is probable Britons will have to wait until March 30 to learn who will be the new premier.

Mr. Callaghan has several trump cards. His background makes him the very model of a modern Labour Party leader: the son of a naval petty officer, well regarded by the trades unions and the holder of three major cabinet posts.

What is more, his name does not raise hackles either on the left or the right as do those of most of his rivals.

This is notably true of left-winger Tony Benn, whose candidacy won him new enemies because he will be a rival to Mr. Foot, the only man on the left seen to stand a chance of garnering a large vote.

Although the heavy betting is on Mr. Callaghan, it was impossible to predict with any certainty what the outcome of the contest would be. A second ballot will be needed if no candidate obtains an absolute majority of the Labour Party's 316 members of parliament in the

first round.

Meanwhile Israel's invitation to British Prime Minister Harold Wilson to visit the country still stands despite his decision to resign, foreign minister Yigal Allon said in Occupied Jerusalem.

Mr. Allon told the British ambassador, Mr. Thomas Elliot, yesterday that Prime Minister, but also as a private individual, Yitzhak Rabin had invited Mr. Wilson not only as British Prime Minister but also as a private individual, a government announcement said.

## Ahdab renews resignation call

(Continued from page 1)

the hilltop presidential palace at Baabda, overlooking Beirut.

The dissident troops, belonging to the rebel Lebanese Arab Army, said today two of their comrades had been killed in a clash with right-wing Phalangist gunmen about 14 kilometres from Baabda.

The dissidents also said there was shooting today around the Christian village of Kahhale, which lies astride the Beirut-Damascus highway between the rebel force and the capital.

Residents of Beirut have slipped resignedly into a familiar crisis routine, queuing outside bakeries and searching for increasingly scarce supplies of fuel.

Lieutenant Ahmed Al-Khatib, the nominal leader of the Lebanese Arab Army told Reuters today Syria had assured him that political solution would be found and he, too, was backing the Syrian initiative.

Speaking at his headquarters in the Bekaa Valley, eastern Lebanon, he said however that if political efforts failed: "We shall use military force."

The weekly magazine Al-Sayyad reported meanwhile that 180,000 Lebanese have fled the country since last August to escape the civil war and that another 200,000 were awaiting passports.

## Hassan delays France visit

(Continued from page 1)

draw the Moroccan and Mauritanian people's attention to the Saharans' struggle to regain control of their own homeland.

Polisario wanted to undercut official propaganda from Rabat and Nouakchott claiming to control the Sahara which they divided between them under an agreement with Spain signed last November, the spokesmen said.

The Polisario representatives said the guerrillas had attacked several army outposts situated south of the Atlas mountain inside Moroccan territory near Akka and Tata.

They said the guerrillas' objectives were "strictly military".

## Top-level talks for Kreisky visit

(Continued from page 1)

lopment of the Ghor region. They also visited the Royal Scientific Society.

In the evening Prime Minister Rifai held a banquet in honour of Mr. Kreisky at the Al Hussein Youth City.

After this banquet the guest was able to meet with His Majesty King Hussein, who had just returned from his Far East trip.

The guests will leave Amman for their return trip to Vienna before noon on Friday.



WAYS OF RESISTANCE. — Arab demonstrators start a street bonfire in Arab Jerusalem Wednesday to stop Israeli police from advancing, as protests against Israeli occupation continue. (AP wirephoto).

## European currency pressures continue to depress French franc; pound firms

PARIS, March 18, (AFP). — The French franc was under continued attack today and plunged further against the Swiss and West German currencies as speculation lessened somewhat on Western European markets.

But tension still ran high with continued heavy buying of Swiss francs and Deutsche marks which rose despite renewed central bank interventions.

Sterling seemed in better shape, although dealers reported no assistance from the Bank of England.

But the French franc, which up to yesterday had held its own at about three per cent below the pre-float value, widened its depreciation rate to 5.7 per cent against the Swiss franc and 5.25 per cent against the Deutsche mark in nervous trading. It closed at 1.8625 to the Swiss franc against yesterday's 1.85 and at 1.8570 to the mark compared with 1.8492.

The French franc closed today at 4.713 francs to the dollar against yesterday's 4.702, as French officials said the French government intended to make sure that it would not slide significantly below this level or widen the discount against the currencies in the European snake.

The dollar in London was worth 2.5365 marks this afternoon against 2.53525 at the opening, and sterling held firmer at 1.9245 dollars up from last night's 1.9220.

In Zurich, the Swiss franc rose slightly.

## Ford postpones Middle East visit

(Continued from page 1)

The feeling here is that President Ford could not be expected to undertake a personal mission to the Middle East, especially in an American election year, unless the outlook for success could be improved.

U.S. officials believe that bold diplomatic initiatives in the Middle East are unlikely in the coming months and that the most that can be expected this year are efforts to prevent the current stalemate from breaking down completely.

## Arms talks high on Gamassi agenda

(Continued from page 1)

President Sadat has said that all Soviet weapons supplied to Egypt would become obsolete in 18 months if the Kremlin continued to refuse to deliver spare parts or replace arms lost in the 1973 war with Israel.

se across the board, reflecting continued buying of this traditional currency refuge in times of crisis. The French franc dipped to 0.5370 from 0.5404 at the opening while the dollar stood at 2.5305, down from 2.54.

Dealers said the Swiss National Bank (BNS) intervened "energetically" to prevent the Swiss franc rising too fast. They were unable to cite any figures, but BNS sources said the central bank had scooped in foreign currency worth over \$1,500 million between January 1 and yesterday in a bid to steady the rates.

Swiss National Bank Governor Fritz Leutwiler today said the current monetary crisis required closer cooperation between the BNS and central banks managing "hard" currencies, those of West Germany and Japan.

As for the U.S. dollar, he saw its decline against the Swiss franc as reflecting mainly "the weakness of other currencies".

In Paris, efforts should be made in the International Monetary Fund to achieve an exchange rate regime based on "fixed but adjustable" parities "as soon as possible", French Finance Minister Jean-Pierre Fourcade said today.

Students clash with Paris police over university cut-backs

PARIS, March 18, (AFP). — Striking university students clashed with police on the Left Bank of Paris tonight for the second night running and the students also fought against about 300 youths waving black flags of anarchy and smashing windows.

Several thousand student demonstrators, who tried to reach the Secretariat of State for Universities to protest against planned cut-backs at universities, were halted by police hur-

ling tear gas grenades. The students riposted with a hail of rocks and several arrests were reported.

The clash came after parade organisers ordered the students to disperse. Earlier, the youths with black flags rampaged through the streets in front of the marchers, shattering shop windows.

The students, estimated to number 20,000, were protesting plans to thin out the number of medical, dental and teaching students at universities.

Israel presents tougher posture on West Bank

(Continued from page 1)

Bethlehem. The Mayor, Mr. Jiries Al-Tawil, complained that Israeli soldiers had entered the municipal building and beaten up clerks.

In Nablus, members of the Town Council, Chamber of Commerce and professional and women's organisations set up a committee to administer the town while an official resignation by the council remained in force.

West Bank leaders decided to call tomorrow, Friday, "Al-Aqsa Day." Imam at mosques will call for prayers for the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

The Arab-language East Jerusalem newspaper Al Quds said today the demonstrations were not only a reaction to a recent prayers service in the Haram Sharif by extremist Jews.

The newspaper cited Israeli confiscation of Arab lands and lack of consideration for Arab religious feelings generally, as well as the entry by Israeli troops into Arab schools.

Commenting on a statement by Mr. Peres that the Israeli authorities would take strong action if the disturbances continued, the newspaper said this would only exacerbate tensions, and that the underlying cause of the trouble was continued Israeli occupation.

## MPLA, Zaire talks in Lusaka end in deadlock

LUSAKA, March 18, (AFP). — Two days of talks here between an Angolan delegation and the Zambian government ended in deadlock today with Zambia still refusing to recognise the MPLA Angolan People's Republic.

An eight-man MPLA delegation, led by Angolan Foreign Minister Jose Eduardo dos Santos, arrived here on Tuesday in an attempt to normalise strained relations between the two countries.

But they flew back to Angola today.

Informed sources said Zambia had asked Angola to find posts for leaders of the rival UNITA-FNLA (Independence Union-National Front) alliance in the Luanda government hierarchy.

Although the talks were deadlocked, it was understood here that Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda and Angolan President Agostinho Neto will meet somewhere in Zambia early next month.

The MPLA delegation is reliably understood to have called on Zambia to repatriate more than 12,000 Angolan refugees, believed to be UNITA supporters, currently settled in camps on the Zambian border with Angola.

The Luanda government also expressed grave concern at the alleged presence of UNITA supporters in Zambia. The Zambian government has already banned the use of its airspace and

rough the streets in front of the marchers, shattering shop windows.

The students, estimated to number 20,000, were protesting plans to thin out the number of medical, dental and teaching students at universities.

British, French FM's confer

LONDON, March 18, (AFP). — French Foreign Minister Jean Sauvagnargues and British Foreign Secretary J. Callaghan conferred for in London today on coming summit of European Economic Community heads of government what a British spokesman described as "current events in Southern Africa".

Mr Sauvagnargues London today for a few hours. Among expected to be raised at the summit are the EEC summit in Luxembourg April 1 and 2 and the Belgian Premier Leo

on European union employment.

The two ministers discussed energy perspectives for Europe, the spokesman said, and a friendly discussion was held.

territory for attacks on LA government.

In a related development, Angolan information today denied reports government planned to alise the holdings in United States Gulf pany.

The reports, first ed in the local Jornal, were later broadcasted zambique Radio.

Gulf Oil also denied that the Angolan planned to nationalise dings there.

A Gulf spokesman in Pittsburgh t contrary "We have minary contact with and we expect talk soon to determine dical basis on which operate there."

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